

**Growth Management Planning Council**

**Countywide Planning Policies 2011 Update – September 21, 2011**

**Written comments**

**My name is Clarissa Metzler Cross. I reside along SE Green Valley Road on our farm that has been family owned since 1954 (Second family since The Homestead Act). Our farm is in the Upper Green River Agricultural Production District. My husband, Doug and I are full time farmers.**

**In reviewing the final draft of the Countywide Planning Policies, we wish to express our appreciation to the Growth Management Council for preserving and supporting agriculture here within the county. It assists us in viably continuing our goals for growing and providing blueberries in our region. The distinction between Urban Growth Areas and Rural Areas in the CPP affirms the goals needed to prevent uncontrolled urban sprawl.**

**However, I am particularly concerned about the amendments to the final draft, PF-12,-18,-19, -50 that have been written by Lambert and Sternoff, in that they allow a certain amount of ambiguity which would provide the potential Urban expansion sprawl from the UGA's into the rural area. These ambiguities could lead to Public schools (and even their tight lined sewers) for UGA populations being built outside the UGA boundaries into Rural Areas. These amendments clearly expand the UGA from their original boundaries. UGA's should use their existing land efficiently and sustainably without putting pressure on the limited viable Rural Areas which border them. Our county's farmland should NOT be eaten up by development. The protection of these lands as envisioned in "Vision 2030" would be severely destroyed by these amendments.**

**UGA's infrastructures (be these public schools, storm water retention, etc.) if placed in the adjoining Rural Area just allow Master Planned Developments to overflow and infringe disrespectfully on the Rural Area farmers and residents. Our rural roads and traffic patterns used by agriculture are severely impacted with this additional congestion.**

**We respectfully request strongly that these amendments be rejected and that any proposal to exempt existing Rural Area school district sites from proposed CPP policies be rejected in order to protect our valuable Rural Area. Please adopt the Final Draft of the CPP's while rejecting these amendments. They provide a great vision for our county.**

**Thank you.**

**Clarissa Metzler Cross**

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